



Memorandum

Date: December 30, 1996
To: Distribution List
From: Rick Woodard
Water Quality Program Manager
Subject: Early Phase Projects

Your name has been provided to us as a contact to represent watershed programs in the watersheds tributary to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has completed alternative development and refinement (Phase I) and beginning environmental review (Phase II) required to implement a long-term comprehensive plan to restore ecological health and improve water management and beneficial uses in the Bay-Delta Estuary.

Staff of the Water Quality Program are developing plans to improve the quality of Bay-Delta estuary waters. During Phase II of the CALFED process, we have the opportunity to identify projects which may be capable of being implemented during early phases of the CALFED Program, possibly before overall program environmental documentation is complete. Any candidate project for early phase implementation will be subject to an evaluation of technical, economic, financial, and institutional feasibility. Also, any early phase project will be subject to the California Environmental Quality Act requirements. Proposition 204 and associated federal authorization provides some funding for project implementation.

Enclosed for your review are materials from the December 9, 1996 Water Quality Technical Group meeting. One of the primary purposes of the meeting was to request suggestions for specific projects which might be considered for implementation. We are tentatively planning two events we hope you are able to attend. These are: 1) a public workshop on **February 4, 1997**; and 2) the next meeting of the Water Quality Technical Group on **February 14, 1997**.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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At the December 9, 1996 Water Quality Technical Group meeting, we received input on suggestions for early projects from stakeholders broadly representing five areas: mine drainage; urban and industrial runoff; agricultural drainage; water and wastewater treatment; and watershed coordination. However, it was generally agreed that representation was inadequate in the areas of urban and industrial runoff, water and wastewater treatment and watershed coordination. Although the project list is extensive (about 100 projects were suggested), we want to make sure we have taken into consideration any projects which you believe may be good candidates for implementation.

If you have projects which you believe may be good candidates, particularly in the areas of urban and industrial runoff, water and wastewater treatment and watershed coordination, we encourage you to submit them, along with the supporting documentation, such as data, maps or environmental documents which help to provide the rationale for project selection. Please provide us with your suggestions, using copies of the enclosed form. We need these suggestions, along with any other comments, by **January 10, 1997**.

While no selection criteria have yet been adopted, we anticipate that water quality projects selected for early implementation will be a few that most benefit the quality of Bay-Delta estuary waters, have been well studied, and are ready to be implemented but for lack of resources. Although not all of the suggested projects can be implemented in the near future, all will be considered over the years of the CALFED process.

Your name has been added to the list to receive mailings of the Water Technical Group. If you have any questions, please call me at (916) 653-5422 or Judy Heath at (916) 653-2994.

Enclosures: 1) December 9, 1996 Water Quality Technical Group Meeting Minutes
2) Form - Potential Water Quality Projects for CALFED Early Implementation

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